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Keeping Posted

Buchanan:

In the Running For the Court Of St. James?

By Dorothy McCordle

Several leading Republicans on Capitol Hill are urging Texas and Washington millionaire Wiley T. Buchanan, Jr. to come out of retirement and become an ambassador again — possibly to London as successor to Walter Annenberg.

Buchanan, 60, former U.S. Ambassador to Luxembourg and U.S. Chief of Protocol in the Eisenhower administration, is now being considered by President Nixon for a top post in Europe, if not England. No one knows whether he would accept it or not.

He could not be reached for comment. He and his wife, Ruth, have left Washington for the summer for their sumptuous Newport, R.I. "cottage" called "Beaulieu", pictured in this month's issue of "Town & Country". They will remain at Newport until early October.

Buchanan and Richard Nixon have been friends for a long time, going back to the days when Nixon was Vice President in the Eisenhower administration. They and their families often spent weekends together at Camp David.

Those were the years when the Buchanans took their own three children abroad so that they would learn languages and see the world on a diplomatic level.

Twenty years later the Buchanans are still taking three children to Europe—this time three of their grandchildren. This spring they took a three-week European safari with Charles, 12, Helen, 11, and Lilla, 9 whose parents are Bonnie Buchanan Matheson and her husband Charles Matheson, of The Plains, Va.

After the three grandchildren had met the King and Queen of Belgium, had gone skiing with the offspring of the Grand Duke and Grand Duchess of Luxembourg, and seen the sights of Paris and London, there was a final night of dining together. When toasts were in order, 12-year-old Charles Matheson rose to his full height and

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proposed this toast to his grandparents: "To our grandmother and grandfather who have paid for all this."

The Buchanans told friends that they were overcome by this youthful gesture of appreciation.

In Philadelphia there is considerable speculation about what multi-millionaire Walter Annenberg will do after he comes home from his current post as U.S. Ambassador to Great Britain.

Annenberg owns two homes — one in Wynnewood, Pa. — a Philadelphia Main Line suburb — and the other a thousand acre estate in Palm Springs, Calif.

He has said that he will divide his time between these homes when his current tour of duty as head of the American embassy in London ends, which is any day now.

When he became ambassador to Great Britain Annenberg resigned as board chairman of Triangle Publications, at Radnor, Pa. which publishes TV Guide, Seventeen, and the Racing Form. He stayed on as a director, but the chairmanship has remained vacant.

A year and half ago a \$65,000 executive suite was added to the TV Guide building in Radnor, a suburb of Philadelphia. He is expected to occupy that executive suite when he returns from London.

He has sold all of his radio and tele-

vision holdings. And in 1969, he sold The Philadelphia Inquirer, of which he had been editor and publisher, for \$55 million.

He cannot spend the summer months in Palm Springs where the temperature gets up to 120 degrees. But "Sunnylands", his 933-acre estate there, is one of the show places in California. And it is guarded like a medieval castle.

In April it was opened for the first time to major donors to the Palm Springs Desert Museum. According to Peter H. Binzen, writing in The Philadelphia Inquirer, some 300 people came.

"They drove past clumps of trees, lakes and manicured lawns — a magic carpet in the desert — to the mansion itself," Binzen said.

"There they marveled at the marble-floored high-ceilinged atrium with potted orchids and petunias, flanking the original casting of Rodin's 'Eve,' reports Binzen.

"They admired the glass-walled living area with breath-taking mountain view; the Oriental art; the flowers growing in profusion indoors and outdoors; the feeling of openness; the soft, restful colors, whites, blues and greens; the absence of garishness or vulgarity; the delightful guest room with its needlework pillow reading: 'You are going home Sunday, aren't you?'; the pool; the patio, the plantings and the rare old Mexican tree said to be 750 years old."

"Sunnylands" has some famous neighbors whose homes are in the neighborhood — but at a safe distance — Bob Hope, Bing Crosby, and Frank Sinatra. They do not meet on the local golf courses, because the Annenberg estate has its own private nine-hole course.

It takes a permanent staff of 38 people to keep this \$4 million "spread" in shape behind its six-foot high chain link fence, topped with three strands of barbed wire.